



GHOSTRIDER GAZETTE

Golf Battery, 1-79 Field Artillery

Class 13-09, 05DEC08, Week 2



Dear Family Member,

Hello again from beautiful Fort Sill Oklahoma. The weather is definitely cold, and we have begun spending a little more time outdoors in the winter weather. However, your Soldiers have remained focused on training and it is hard to believe that we have already completed our second week of Basic Combat Training (BCT).

We have been keeping your Soldiers' extremely busy. After successfully completing the Team Development Course (TDC), our training focus shifted to a classroom environment where the Soldiers were taught the basics of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) warfare. They were instructed how to react to a chemical attack and to how decontaminate themselves should they be exposed to chemical agents. We then took that information and applied it in a field environment. Every Soldier was exposed to CS gas with their masks on. CS gas is the same gas used by law enforcement to control riots. The exposure to the gas with their masks on allows the Soldiers to feel more confident that their masks will protect them. The Soldiers then take off their masks to experience the effects of CS gas. The first time a person is exposed to the gas often causes individuals to panic. This forces a Soldier to confront their fear and allows them to understand that must remain calm in a stressful environment as well as proving to them the importance and effectiveness of their CBRN equipment.

Soldiers are first responders for medical emergencies in a combat environment. Knowing this, all Soldiers are required to learn first aid skills. These skills were taught in a classroom and then employed in a field environment. The Soldiers learned how to move injured Soldiers on the battlefield using a variety of techniques and how to stabilize a casualty to prevent further injury until medical personnel can assist. The biggest threat to an injured Soldier is shock. In order to decrease this threat, all Soldiers are required to initiate a saline lock (IV). They learned on dummy arms and then were tested using each others arms. The classroom instruction, testing and evaluation closely emulates Combat Life Saver (CLS) training that operational Army units train on and once completed, Soldiers will bring valuable knowledge and life saving skills to their next unit.

I encourage you to write to your soldiers. A little bit of encouragement from home goes a long way and Soldiers have begun receiving them. Letters are fine, but do not send packages, magazines, food, or other contraband items (electronics, candy, soda, tobacco, pornography etc...). All items received that are not authorized will be held with personal baggage and released to the Soldier upon graduation. Contraband items will be confiscated and disposed of. Letters should be mailed to: (Line 1) **Soldiers' name (Line 2) Golf Battery, 1-79 FA, PLT #___ (Line 3) 5001 North Rothwell Rd (Line 4) Fort Sill, OK 73503.**

I will keep you up to date on your Soldiers training using this email format. If there is someone else that you know that would like to receive these updates please send me their email address. This week, your Soldiers were able to successfully arrange travel home for the Holiday Block Leave break (20DEC08-02JAN09). Approximately 1 week after the return of your Soldiers from Holiday Block Leave (after 12JAN09) you should be receiving a letter that includes information about gradation. If you have questions pertaining to an emergency concerning your Soldier, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward meeting you all in the future. Respectfully,

KYLE A. LIPPOLD
CPT, FA
Commanding

Ghostrider Soldier's In Action!



Soldiers move a "casualty" across an obstacle at TDC.



Soldier initiating a saline (IV) lock.

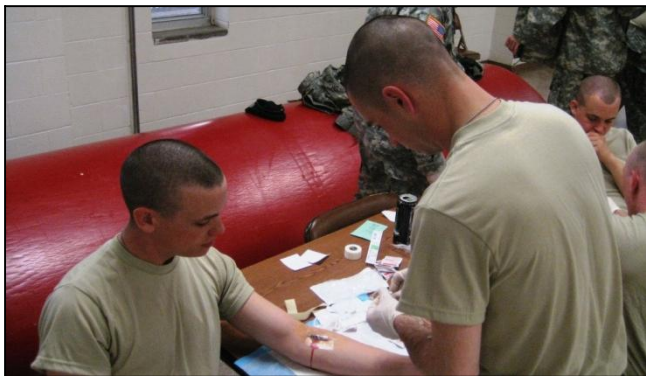


Soldiers are assisted out of the CS Building by a Drill Sergeant.



Soldiers exit the CS building, guiding each other out.

Combat Lifesaver Certification



CBRN Training

